

CESSATION OF THE STORM.

The Fearful Weather of the Past Few Days Slightly Moderated.

SOME ADDITIONAL COLD FACTS.

New Weapons of Destruction for the Army—More Light on the Travis Case—Interesting Local Happenings.

State of the Weather.

"Well, here's a how-dy-do," said the suburban citizen who pays rent fifteen percent above the schedule because the premises are on a street car line, "fifteen blocks to town and the line shut off. If by the breath of the balmy spring time invited a walk down, there'd be no end of cars, but as it is almost a fatal undertaking there's nary a car in sight. I'll hooft it and assess the company heavy damages for the loss of my poles."

"Well, here's a pretty mess," swore the drummer, ripping out a big practical oath, as the bland hotel clerk sweetly informed him that railway traffic was suspended in every direction. "Dash me into a daisy! I've never had such a cold as this. Shut up in a state of siege for half week while appointments out west, down south and everywhere are being smashed to matchwood, and the June time of my youth is bringing no returns. The house will never swallow any blockade excuse," and he rushed to the bar and took three hot drinks, which he charged up to miscellaneous expenses.

"Well, here's a state of things," snarled the merchant in the grocery store, as he looked through the frosty pane with his breath and peered out into the deserted streets. "Business knocked into a cocked hat and nobody even to buy the cocked hat. We'll just inventory the stock and sell as some people imagine. You see, in those days the houses were not constructed as warmly as they are now. Most of them were nothing but log cabins, having the roof made of mud or clay or mud and cloth or something of that kind. Consequently our grandfathers and fathers used to suffer far more from the cold than we would now."

"How about the winter of 1856-7?" "That was a very bitter winter no doubt. But it was not nearly so cold as some people imagine. You see, in those days the houses were not constructed as warmly as they are now. Most of them were nothing but log cabins, having the roof made of mud or clay or mud and cloth or something of that kind. Consequently our grandfathers and fathers used to suffer far more from the cold than we would now."

"The engineer who was on board Union Pacific passenger of Saturday night, while passing Gilmore about midnight left the rails and dragged with it the express, mail and baggage car. No one was hurt except the engineer Jim Monahan who sprained his thumb. The locomotive and cars were put on the track after about five hours' work."

A number of school children have had their hands frozen on their way to school. Matt Clair had one cheek badly frozen this morning while shovelling snow from the sidewalk in front of his house. Marsh Kennard is said to have unfeelingly remarked, when he heard of the catastrophe, "Well, it's a cold day when Matt Clair's cheek is frozen."

The river is fast freezing up and ice cutting will commence in a day or two. The thermometer in the signal office showed a temperature of 21.2 below zero at 7 o'clock Saturday morning. As the thermometer is on the fourth story of the government building, the temperature indicated is a degree or two higher than at the street.

A test has shown that the fire plugs about the city are not yet frozen up. Assistant Superintendent Hunt, of the Waterworks, informed a reporter that they had been tested and found to be in good order. "There will be none, either," he concluded, "no matter how cold this winter may be, as long as this heavy snow is on the ground."

Colonel Henry who was frosted Friday last, is now in the city. In the winter of 1874-75 he left Red Cloud agency for the Black Hills, was out some two weeks, with an average temperature of 40 below zero. The last day, having to face the blizzard in an exposed part of the country, he and his command, some fifty men, were severely frozen—being scattered by coming across a ranch on "squaw man" Col. Dodge's work "Plains of the Northwest" graphically describes this trip, and sufferings of the command, who to this day feel the effects of their exposure.

The officials and clerks in the railway office and mercantile establishment who handle correspondences are nervously themselves to face a deluge of mail matter when the blockade is raised. General Test denies that he ever gave the Omaha fair board any forecast of the weather for next September, but states that he will do so if it is desired.

E. L. Holbrook, of the Union Pacific engineering department, had a very painful frostbite while running a survey line at the Summit Saturday morning. Reports at Union Pacific headquarters state that a number of the men at work clearing the track were badly frozen. Despite the blockade postal service, unusually large sales of stamps were made at the postoffice Friday. One corporation bought \$300 worth and another purchased \$112. Other large sales ran the total amount up to \$700.

A FIRM AND A WEAPON. The Gun to be Adopted by Uncle Sam. A circular from the headquarters of the department of the Platte, shows that the army in the spring are to be supplied with the new Springfield rifles with model sights. "This gun," said Col. Henry, "is so arranged that with a full screw you obtain your elevation and allowance for drift at the same time. The 'drift' is the distance which the ball will sway to the right on account of the twist it receives in leaving the gun. Formerly the marksman had to make his allowance for shooting at any given distance—that is in technical phrase—obtain the elevation—and then by turning a little screw make an allowance for 'drift' of the ball. In the new gun, by automatic arrangement, this allowance for elevation and drift is made at the same time."

The Dr. Henry of the army, already at a high point in marksmanship, will, it is believed, be greatly increased by the introduction of the improved gun. The Springfield rifle, as the latest system was applied to for the first time, as unfavorable reports are made against the present magazine guns.

"What are the magazine guns?" "They are guns with a magazine attachment to the barrel, containing shells, and so adjusted that a number of shots can be fired in quick succession. They are clumsy and imperfect at present, though in time they may become sufficiently improved to warrant their adoption."

"What will it cost to introduce this new gun?" "There are 25,000 men to be supplied and each gun will cost about \$18. You can see that it will be a heavy investment."

There seems to be among a certain class, known as the "Kessler's ball gang," a sort of organization wherein the line is drawn at \$1.75 for ice cutters. The crowd numbers about thirty men who have followed the harvest for years and consider themselves indispensable.

MONEY RAISED FOR TRAVIS.

Capt. Rustin and Gen. O'Brien Explain How the Money was Raised.

The BEB presents below a few cold facts concerning the Travis alleged bribery case which have never before been published. They form a very interesting and important supplement to the testimony brought out at the recent investigation, and ought to satisfy even the most hostile to Marshal Cummings as to "what became of that \$300."

Capt. C. B. Rustin was met on Saturday by a reporter for the BEB, who engaged him in a conversation bearing upon the Travis case. Mr. Rustin, it may be remembered, testified at the investigation that he had been intimately concerned with the disbursement of the money raised for Travis, and further that that amount was something less than \$300 and more than \$200.

"I can't understand," he said to the reporter, "why Dr. Miller wants to strike John A. Croighton over my shoulder. I am there in any crookedness in the affair. I am the man who ought to be held responsible. I went to Croighton and got him to advance the money to get Travis back to his home. It was merely an act of kindness on the part of John Croighton. The Herald said that he disbursed the money. There is not a word in the testimony to justify such talk. I disclaimed very much to be brought into the Cummings investigation, but if I had refused to attend and give testimony they might have charged that I was guilty of some crime. I don't know anything. I didn't dare to disclose. This man Travis is not a bad man. He didn't commit any forgery, and was incapable of doing it if he wanted to. Years ago, when the Comstock silver-mining business was in a most flourishing state, Travis was a highly respected and prominent man out in the Nevada mining country. He was sheriff at Pioche when I first got acquainted with him. For two years he took to drinking and running with fast women. Finally, he became deranged and was taken to the insane asylum in California. He made his escape from the asylum. The first thing his brother out in Utah heard of him was when he received a notice from Omaha by telegraph that his brother had been taken to jail while attempting to commit suicide. He telegraphed me to find his brother and let him know how badly he was hurt. He also asked me to have the unfortunate man cared for and returned as soon as he got well. When I went to Croighton to raise the money, there was no complaint filed charging Travis with forgery. So far as that is concerned, he was simply a victim in that bogus check transaction. He got on a spree, and was in with some sharpers at the Bluffs who victimized him after they had got what money he had. Travis comes of a good family, but writes a wretched hand, and couldn't have possibly forged that check, which was executed by some expert in such work."

When Mr. Rustin was asked about the money which, it is claimed by the Herald, is not accounted for, he said: "We didn't use any more money than was absolutely needed to get the man in condition for trial and send him back. Travis was actually almost broke. He had no clothes had to be thrown away. In his deranged condition we could not put money in his hands nor trust him on the road with a truck full of it."

When asked why the money had not been stated before the investigating committee, Captain Rustin said he thought the testimony of Bencke cleared up everything, and as he was not asked to tell all he knew about Travis, he did not see fit to volunteer testimony beyond answering questions put to him. Mr. Rustin felt extremely sore over the treatment of John Croighton, who he thought was done for a friend what any other humane man would have done under like circumstances.

Gen. O'Brien was seen by a reporter and asked whether he had known that Travis was an escaped lunatic from the California insane asylum. "Of course I did," replied the general, "and I had my papers all right for a writ of habeas corpus for Travis' release on the ground of insanity. Judge Bencke held the man longer than he had any right to, and I had to go several times to him before our chief counsel, Mr. Cummings, could get him out. But what about the money? What was done with the excess over what it required to pay your fee and buy him a new suit of clothes?"

"We didn't have money enough to pay legitimate expenses as it was. Travis couldn't even pay his doctor's bill. If Mr. Burnham had asked me what had been done with the money I could have said almost anything. I don't know more than two-thirds was not disbursed in Omaha. Travis could not be safely sent to his home alone. So we hired a man to take charge of him and to look after him. That made the trip quite expensive, paying fare for two men out and one man back, besides incidental expenses on the road, and a good round sum for the services of the man who went with Travis. So far as Cummings is concerned, I didn't need him and wasn't foolish enough to pay him for obeying the judge's order. Bencke only did what was obliged to do, and I am satisfied for the holding of the man on the mere complaint without a requisition."

A FOOL'S QUESTION.

A Man From Wahoo Stumps a Large Number of Wise Men.

The following interchange of correspondence passing between December 30 and January 8, may prove interesting reading matter. It all began in this harmless inquiry by postal card: WAHOO, Neb., Dec. 29.—David Bradley & Co., Council Bluffs, Dear Sir: Are you agents for the New Orleans lottery if so I'll send a card and oblig by Return mail address Wahoo, Neb., Respectfully yours, GORDON THOMAS.

This harmless note was made the butt of much merriment and was widely copied. COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa, Dec. 29. SHUGART, WAITE & VEIS, City. GENTLEMEN: Having a customer on implements in Wahoo, and am carrying the goods Mr. Thomas requires, we turn the order over to you. If you do not keep them, pass it along to some one who may possibly have them. Yours truly, DAVID BRADLEY & CO. LININGER & METCALF, Omaha, Neb.

GENTLEMEN: The enclosed order has been forwarded to us, but we can not fill it. As such goods are wanted extensively in your city during Mr. Pitt's time, we think you may be able to help him out. If not, please forward. Yours respectfully, SHUGART, WAITE & VEIS. P. S.—We will divide commissions.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 2, 1886. Churchill Parker, Esq., president, Parker, Robertson & Co., Omaha, Neb. DEAR SIR:—Referring to papers attached would say we do not handle the kind of goods Mr. Thomas asks for, nor in fact know anything about them, we take pleasure in handing his order to you, believing that you will be able to satisfy him in this matter. With the compliments of the season, we are, respectfully, LININGER & METCALF, Co. If you cannot give the information he seeks, please pass it on to whom you think would be able to do so. OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 8, 1886. Euclid Martin, Esq., Parlin, Orendorff & Martin, City.

DEAR SIR:—I take pleasure in handing you herewith papers relative to an inquiry made by a party at Wahoo from a certain Bluffs house for the agents of a certain "lottery."

It occurs to me that it was useless to forward the inquiry beyond its original destination, as I know of no place which comes nearer to being a lottery than Council Bluffs, and the gentleman at Wahoo probably had the same idea when he wrote the card.

If you know of any place where the gentleman can be better accommodated I trust you will forward the communication. Yours truly, CHURCHILL PARKER, Messrs. Doere, Wells & Co., Council Bluffs, Iowa.

We herewith hand you postal card from Mr. Thomas of Wahoo, Neb., making inquiries in regard to a "lottery." We also attach correspondence in relation thereto. Acting upon the suggestion of Mr. Parker we return the whole business to the place to which it was originally addressed, hoping that should you not be in a position to accommodate the gentleman you will forward it to some one who, in or in the event of a failure to do this we suggest that perhaps it had better be returned to the house to whom it was originally addressed, so that they can make such disposition as they deem best. Very respectfully yours, PAULIN, ORENDORFF & MARTIN. Considering that all the firms whose hands the inquiry has reached are dealers in wagons, carriages, farm implements, etc., and that the real representative of the lottery hereabouts is in jail, Mr. Thomas of Wahoo is not in a fair way to obtain a satisfactory reply.

TALKS WITH TRAVELERS.

Short Interviews Gathered in the Hotel Rotundas.

Ed L. Carter, Detroit, Mich.: "The excitement over the Polish Catholic riots in our city has almost entirely subsided. I do not think there is any great danger of further serious rioting, and yet an outbreak may be looked for at any time. The impression you receive in reading telegraphic accounts of the situation is wrong; the police have always had the mastery over the rioters, and they will hold it. No, the priest who has been deposed by the bishop—and whose removal was the cause of the mutiny on the part of the Polish congregation—was not a bad man, though there was some rumormongering against his character. He was very popular with the majority of his congregation, the faction which opposed him being very small indeed. There is no doubt but that in the long run the bishop will be right, and that the Polish Catholics will have to submit to his decree regarding the removal of the priest. He is backed in his action by the power of the Catholic church."

King, Kansas, Cal.: [Mr. Kimball represents one of the largest tea companies on the Pacific coast.] "There was a time when the tea trade in the coast and indeed of the entire country was in the hands of a few Chinese—the Chinese Six companies, for instance. That time has passed. The commercial relations of America with China and Japan of late years have become more and more free. This is especially noticeable in the tea trade, a large portion of which, in Frisco, is now transacted by American firms."

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AMUSEMENTS.

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Presenting a Lottery Man.

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The section of the city ordinance under which Keene is being prosecuted by the law and order league, reads as follows: "Every lottery, gift enterprise, game or device of chance in the nature of a lottery, within the corporate limits of the city of Omaha, by whatever name it shall be called, shall be deemed unlawful and a common and public nuisance."

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